

24 September 2007

Attorney General Gary King
Attorney General
111 Lomas NW Ste 300
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Attorney General Gary King,

My daughter, Kyle Crawford attended AIMS@UNM (Albuquerque Institute for Math and Science) last year. AIMS is a charter school in Albuquerque that was previously named High Tech High. I am concerned about many things that took place last year, of which I'll mention three.

First, the governance board has failed to adequately inform the school community of meeting times and agendas, and has not made their minutes available even though the board regularly approves minutes of prior meetings.

Second, the budget, as far as I can tell, was never prepared by a committee with a parent representative, and presented to the community for review. I don't even know if it was ever voted on prior to its submission to the New Mexico PED.

Third, the charter was suddenly re-written without community input. The re-written charter was designated as an 'amendment', but this amendment did not map to the original charter. The amendment description mentioned changing the school from 9th to 12th grade to 6th to 12th grade, and deleting 'registered' language belonging to High Tech High of San Diego, CA, but it was far more extensive than that.

The director indicated that the parents want the school to include 6th to 12th grades. I'm a parent, and that was news to me. Also, a parent phoned High Tech High in San Diego to ask them what language in the AIMS charter belonged to them. They replied that the only registered language in the original charter was the name, 'High Tech High', which was removed when the school's name was changed to AIMS.

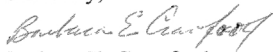
The bottom line, here is that the director and the board have no regard for the wishes of the parents and students. We are an inconvenient obstacle in their path. They have deceived us and acted without our consent. If a charter is a legal contract, I believe that the director and the board acted illegally by amending the charter without public participation. I believe they violated the Open Meetings Act by not posting meeting times and agendas properly, failing to provide minutes to the community, and keeping budget information to themselves.

Please look into this situation at AIMS@UNM. I'm not qualified to make a decision on whether or not they are breaking the law, but I am qualified to be suspicious.

This year, I moved my child to another school, but I still would like to see AIMS succeed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Barbara E. Crawford

